

REMARKS

All claims in prosecution 8 – 20 are under final rejection as being anticipated by Young (US 5,532,754) under 35 USC 102(b). Young is newly cited art. Applicants believe that the rejection is inappropriate under both anticipatory or obviousness considerations. Examiner is requested to reconsider the basis for the rejection in view of the following remarks.

The claims are directed to the automatic reservation (scheduling) of a recorder for the recording of repetitively transmitted programs, in which the programs can conflict in the times of transmission. This is an explicit requirement of all of the claims. The claims further require a means or a step of grouping programs that interfere (conflict) with each other in time. The claims also require a means or a step for assigning a recording priority to each program such that all of the programs are efficiently recorded in sequence by the single recorder.

Young discloses none of these claimed elements. Young is directed to a graphic user interface (GUI) to assist a user in selecting programs for recording. But the selection is manually performed by the user. This is precisely what the present invention avoids.

Young makes it very clear that if there are conflicts in the time transmission of desired programs, that this is a problem for the user to resolve.

At col. 1, line 36, Young states:

More particularly, it relates to such a system and process in which the VCR or other recording device is controlled by a simple selection of program title and a record command, even for recording at a future date and time.

The above quote reveals that a user controls a recorder by selecting a program title that is displayed in the GUI. The claimed invention is an automatic scheduling algorithm.

Young further states at col. 4, line 4:

A video recording system to allow automatic, unattended recording of at least two cable television programs supplied sequentially at different times on different channels of a cable system includes a

This quote clearly states that Young is not concerned with and does not provide any mechanism for dealing with programs that conflict in transmission times. However, this is a main purpose of the inventions and the claims include language to that effect.

At col. 4, line 28, Young further states:

The method of this aspect of the invention automatically records cable television programs supplied sequentially at different times on a cable system unattended, ...

Again, this quote confirms that Young does not deal with conflicting programs.

As one final example, Young states at col. 8, line 8:

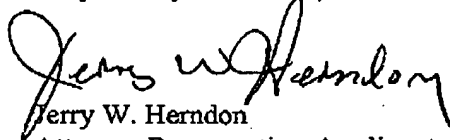
Further details on the linking feature are given in screen 19 of FIG. 23. 1) A linked program 47 may be suspended by the user (perhaps to avoid conflict with a pending recording), by de-selecting the link title in the Link List screen, under the Record Memo command.

This quote reveals that if there is a conflict in programs scheduled for recording, then it is the user's responsibility to resolve the conflict by de-selecting one of the programs.

Attorney is unable to find any statement in Young's specification that deals with the automatic scheduling of program recording, and certainly nothing with respect to the automatic resolution of conflicts.

It seems indisputable that Young and the present invention deal with different problems, Young in providing an improved GUI interface to the user, and the present invention with relieving a user of the burden of scheduling around conflicts. The claims clearly, and almost completely, recite elements that are not contained in Young. For these reasons, Examiner is respectfully requested to favorably reconsider the submitted claims and pass this application to issue.

Respectfully Submitted,


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